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I S S U E S A N D A N S W E R S

Sunday, May 18, 1980

GUEST: COLONEL MUAMMAR QADDAFI, LIBYA

INTERVIEWED BY:

Bob Clark - ISSUES AND ANSWERS Chief Correspondent
Michael Lee, ABC News Correspondent

This is a rush transcript for
the press. Any questions re-
garding accuracy should be re-
ferred to ISSUES AND ANSWERS

1 MR. CLARK: Your country deported 25 Americans this last
2 week and arrested two others on charges of spying. You have
3 personally said that Libyans living in other countries are to
4 be liquidated if they actively oppose your government. Yet you
5 have also said that you want better relations with the United
6 States.

7 How can relations be improved when you do such
8 things?

9 COLONEL QADDAFI: There is some misunderstanding about
10 my declaration about this problem. I -- First of all, there
11 is no government here in my country to be opposed by any
12 opposition, because there is no possibility for any opposition
13 against people's authority. And I didn't say I, myself, or
14 any other People's authorities will kill any Libyans outside.
15 I said if they don't come back to their country, I can't
16 protect them from the revenge of the Revolutionary Committees
17 which their members -- everywhere in Europe or anyplace.

18 I can't protect them everywhere. I didn't say I,
19 myself, or any other People's authorities will kill them.

20 MR. CLARK: Perhaps, Colonel Qaddafi, the confusion
21 results from your own words, and let me quote them. In talking
22 about Libyan exiles, you said in a recent speech to the
23 military cadets, and these were your words: "Either they
24 return to Libya, where they would be safe and sound, or they
25 will be liquidated wherever they are." Now that has been

1 interpreted by some Libyan students abroad as being a directive
2 from you to liquidate exiles who oppose your government.

3 You're saying you did not mean that?

4 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes, I want to protect them. And there
5 is no protection outside, only if they come back to their
6 country. But outside I can't protect them because, as I said,
7 the members of the dissident committees are now everywhere in
8 Europe after these peoples. Not I order them or any other
9 person.

10 MR. LEE: Colonel Qaddafi, perhaps we can clear this up
11 by asking you a direct question. What is your view as to what
12 should happen to people whom you consider to be anti-revolu-
13 tionary, dissident, whatever the word may be? Should they be
14 liquidated?

15 COLONEL QADDAFI: Outside or inside?

16 MR. LEE: Outside or inside, either one.

17 COLONEL QADDAFI: No. No. Inside they will be safe.

18 MR. LEE: Outside.

19 COLONEL QADDAFI: And outside I can't protect them from
20 the revenge of the Revolutionary Committees, you see.

21 MR. LEE: So you are suggesting that it is possible that
22 these people who resist the revolution, the Libyans outside,
23 may well be liquidated because they stay outside.

24 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes, by means of the Revolutionary
25 Committees, not by me or any other People's authorities, you
see.

1 MR. LEE: But Colonel Qaddafi, understanding, of course,
2 that your system provides for no formal government --

3 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes.

4 MR. LEE: It's obvious that you are the leader of Libya,
5 you are the leader of the revolution, and without your influ-
6 ence -- Nevermind the title for the moment -- Without your
7 influence, people would follow what you think is the right
8 course.

9 COLONEL QADDAFI: You must understand, the Revolutionary
10 Committees held a conference in Bengazi University,
11 recently. They decided in their conference to liquidate any,
12 any individuals outside -- after I forgive -- forgave him
13 ten years to come back, who work now with intelligence service
14 of other countries like Egypt, Israelis, and U.S.A. And
15 they're people who got the money of the people and put it
16 outside for themselves. All these corrupted individuals, the
17 individuals of the society of exploitation, of monarchy. We
18 forgave them many times to come back.

19 But now they have alliance with these enemy sources
20 outside. Therefore, the Revolutionary Committees held a
21 conference in Bengazi and they decide this. And since
22 that conference, they spread outside and there is a battle
23 between the people and these enemies. And I want to protect
24 these people outside and I can't do this unless they come back,
25 come back to their country.

1 MR. CLARK: Well Colonel Qaddafi, to relate this directly
2 to what happened in in Washington, where our government
3 expelled four members of your embassy staff, or members of
4 what is now called your People's Bureau in Washington. Our
5 State Department has documents sent out from what was your
6 embassy in Washington outlining your government's plans to
7 carryout -- and these are direct words -- the physical elimina-
8 tion of the enemies of the revolution abroad.

9 Now weren't those your orders?

10 COLONEL QADDAFI: No, no. I said there is misunderstand-
11 ing about my declaration.

12 MR. CLARK: Well do you mean you no longer control your
13 embassies or People's Bureaus abroad?

14 COLONEL QADDAFI: No. The People's Bureau has no
15 relationship with this action.

16 MR. CLARK: Well what happened --

17 COLONEL QADDAFI: It is the responsibility of the
18 Revolutionary Committees.

19 MR. CLARK: Well what happens to your diplomatic
20 relations with other countries, if they are no longer your
21 embassies? What happens to things like diplomatic immunity
22 or normal relations with other countries? How does it all work?

23 COLONEL QADDAFI: You ignore or you don't know really
24 the major changes that took place in Libya. We are jimayhailiya
25 you see. And the relationship between our people who governs
(phonetic)

1 himself directly with other peoples in the world must be
2 directly also, not through embassies, but through People's
3 Bureaus.

4 These People's Bureaus are not diplomatic missions,
5 at all. They are citizens, free citizens. Some of them, or
6 the majority of them are students still studying in the U.S.A.
7 or in Europe, and they form these People's Bureau after --
8 after the transit of the masses on these embassies.

9 MR. CLARK: Our government views the expulsion of the
10 25 Americans from your country this past week as retaliation
11 for our deportation of four Libyans from Washington.

12 Was it, indeed, just retaliation?

13 COLONEL QADDAFI: You speak about government also. We
14 have no government at all.

15 MR. CLARK: You -- You have no government. Who do we
16 deal with when we expel Libyans or when you expel Americans?
17 If there is no government, how is this handled diplomatically?
18 Do we have something approaching anarchy in diplomatic rela-
19 tions?

20 COLONEL QADDAFI: We don't deal with this -- We no longer
21 deal with this diplomatic matters, but with People's matters,
22 you see. There are People's conferences. They form the People's
23 Bureau as a link between these People's Congresses here and
24 the other people's outside. And this Bureau is responsible in
25 front of these People's Congresses, and is responsible about

1 the other People's Bureaus outside.

2 You see, the Chairman of this People's Bureau here
3 is responsible, therefore, he sent a message to Carter saying
4 that, I, Chairman of this People's Bureau here, I am charged
5 from the People's Congresses for this People's Bureau outside,
6 and therefore, I send this message for you because he, only,
7 is responsible about this.

8 MR. CLARK: Well who guarantees the safety of the
9 remaining Americans in Libya? And there's something like 2000,
10 and who guarantees --

11 COLONEL QADDAFI: The Libyan people.

12 MR. CLARK: Hm? The Libyan people.

13 COLONEL QADDAFI: The Libyan people.

14 MR. CLARK: How about fair treatment of the two
15 Americans arrested as spies? Can you tell us anything more
16 about that? And do we know they will be treated fairly when
17 we have just some vague People's government?

18 COLONEL QADDAFI: There is justice. There is courts.
19 There are courts. There are People's Committee for Justice.
20 The police and the court is under the supervision of these
21 People's Committees. And these People's Committees are
22 responsible in front of the People's Congresses. And don't
23 worry about anything like this.

24 MR. LEE: Colonel, can I ask you a couple of questions
25 that go to the heart of relations now between Libya and the

1 United States? First of all, why were the 25 Americans
2 expelled and why are two Americans being held in jail?

3 COLONEL QADDAFI: I don't know the particular things
4 about them, but I know, as you know, that People's -- People's
5 Committees of Justice here. And the police sources, which is
6 under supervision of these People's Committees, they accused
7 them by many things they did here. Like they may belong to the
8 intelligence service. And they said that they have some rela-
9 tions with terrorist groups outside maybe.

10 MR. LEE: Late last year, the American Embassy was
11 attacked and burned. Are you prepared, at this point, to
12 invite the American diplomats back to Tripoli to re-establish
13 full diplomatic relations?

14 COLONEL QADDAFI: Well it is people's initiative.

15 MR. LEE: Who can invite them back? The question is, is
16 it possible now to have the American diplomats come back or
17 must they wait?

18 COLONEL QADDAFI: Why not? Why not? It's possible. But
19 you don't want this. You can through the People's Bureau in
20 Washington, or through the People's Bureau, which is here. You
21 can make contact about this matter and you bring your embassy
22 again here. But you don't want this.

23 MR. CLARK: We'll continue a discussion of this in just
24 a moment. We're going to take a short break and be back with
25 more ISSUES AND ANSWERS.

--- (Announcements) ---

1 MR. CLARK: Our guest is Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, the
2 Libyan leader. And with me is ABC News Correspondent Mike Lee.

3 MR. LEE: Colonel Qaddafi, recently Libya, once again,
4 threatened to cutoff oil supplies to the United States and
5 other Western countries.

6 Where do we stand with that possibility? Do you
7 actually intend to do it this time?

8 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes, in time of necessity, actually
9 do it.

10 MR. LEE: But you have not done it. Are you going to
11 actually do it?

12 COLONEL QADDAFI: We are -- Yes, we are thinking
13 seriously to do it.

14 MR. LEE: When might this happen?

15 COLONEL QADDAFI: If it is necessary.

16 MR. LEE: In your mind, Colonel, what would make it
17 necessary? What would the United States or the other countries
18 have to do, in order for you to cutoff the oil?

19 COLONEL QADDAFI: The economic policy against our
20 country, against our nation, against our cause of Palestine,
21 all these are reasons they make us obliged to use the oil as
22 a political weapon.

23 MR. LEE: The U.S. support of Israel being one of the
24 issues.

25 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes, it is one of them.

1 MR. LEE: Of course, this has existed for a long time.
2 And what I'm asking is you've threatened to do this, and you've
3 threatened to do it. When do we know whether it's a threat that
4 you use only for, perhaps, political rhetoric, or do you
5 actually intend to do it?

6 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes. By this you are saying Arabs
7 were silly because they didn't use this weapon and --

8 MR. LEE: No, I am not saying you were silly.

9 COLONEL QADDAFI: -- the first time. We -- We, we --
10 We have to use it in a former time, but it is true. We were
11 silly. And now, we see it is a time to, to use our oil as a
12 political weapon against our enemies.

13 MR. LEE: Is it possible that you will reduce or cutoff
14 your supplies to the United States this year?

15 COLONEL QADDAFI: I can't say this year, or next year,
16 or any context time, but it is possible.

17 MR. LEE: And what would happen to your own economy if
18 you cutoff the oil to the United States? You supply a great
19 deal of your own oil, nearly half, to the United States?

20 COLONEL QADDAFI: We will not suffer much more U.S.A.
21 or Europe if we do this. But anyhow, we have to take our
22 responsibilities about this -- this -- this action, if we do
23 it.

24 MR. CLARK: We want to talk with you a little about
25 Iran, Colonel Qaddafi. And you appealed to Iran several months

1 ago to release the American hostages. You said you were afraid
2 that tensions there could escalate into World War III.

3 Have you sent any recent messages about the
4 hostages, seeking release of the hostages, to the Khomeini
5 government?

6 COLONEL QADDAFI: My attitude about this matter is very
7 clear. I am against such actions like this to capture hostages,
8 or embassies, or any innocent people. But I am not sure if
9 your hostages in Iran is innocent or not, because they might
10 be intelligence people. They may did damage in Iran. They may
11 did something serious in the regime of Shah.

12 MR. CLARK: But Colonel Qaddafi, without arguing the
13 whole case concerning the hostages, do you think that the
14 continuing holding of the hostages by Iran is adding to the
15 danger of war in the Middle East?

16 COLONEL QADDAFI: I don't think so, because it is not
17 a serious matter.

18 MR. CLARK: You have purchased huge amounts of arms from
19 the Soviet Union in recent years; tanks and jet fighters and
20 other things. These seem to be far more than you need for
21 defensive purposes. Are you preparing for war?

22 COLONEL QADDAFI: We are against war, absolutely, you
23 must know this. And we need more weapons to arm our people,
24 because we want to -- The regular army will be disappeared in
25 the future. And the armed people will raise-up in the state

1 of -- And therefore, we -- We need arms for all masses.

2 MR. CLARK: But you have far more arms now than your
3 people are trained to use. You have some 2500 tanks and you
4 don't have the skilled personnel to man the tanks. You have,
5 I think, only about one in three of the jet planes you have
6 bought from the Soviets has a pilot to fly it.

7 What do you need with all these arms?

8 COLONEL QADDAFI: I told you. We need more of these
9 weapons because we are going to arm our people. All the masses
10 must be armed. And the regular Army will disappear. In this
11 case, we need more weapons for all the masses. And if the
12 regular army disappear, there will be no possibility for war.

13 MR. CLARK: Well you might give a rifle to every Libyan,
14 but you can't give a tank or a jet plane to the people, can
15 you?

16 COLONEL QADDAFI: No, no, no rifle, no. We are training
17 masses on tanks, planes, ships, submarines, rockets, artillery,
18 all these weapons the people is being trained now on these.
19 Because the people will be the army. And if we reach this
20 stage, the possibility of the war will be very unlikely
21 because the masses of no intention of war. The people will not
22 move out his borders to invade other country. But the regular
23 army, under the order of the President or the leader, they may
24 do this easily.

25 MR. LEE: Colonel Qaddafi, as you know, some people

1 suggest that because almost all of your arms come from the
2 Soviet Union that the Soviets may be using Tripoli or Libya,
3 as a dumping ground, a depot to place the arms in this country
4 so they can use them if there is a war.

5 COLONEL QADDAFI: That is propaganda.

6 MR. LEE: What, do you think, is the possibility of a
7 war between Libya and Egypt?

8 COLONEL QADDAFI: There is a big possibility for the war.

9 MR. LEE: More than propaganda. A real possibility?

10 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes, yes. A real possibility from the
11 side of Egypt, and by the encouragement of U.S.A. The United
12 States of America encourages Sadat to be able to launch a war
13 against Libya.

14 MR. LEE: Is this one of the reasons, Colonel Qaddafi,
15 why you wish to maintain ties with the United States, in order
16 to prevent what you say would be a U.S.-sponsored Egyptian
17 attack on you?

18 COLONEL QADDAFI: No, no, no. It is another thing. We are
19 not afraid. We are not afraid. And it is not a reason for, for
20 this. We are trying to make good relations with, with America,
21 not for this reason. We are not afraid.

22 MR. CLARK: Well why is it you want better relations
23 with America?

24 COLONEL QADDAFI: Better?

25 MR. CLARK: Yes.

1 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes. Because it is a super power.
2 And we're a small country. And we need good relations with all
3 the states in the world, particularly the superpower. We might
4 get benefit. It is for our interest also. And we have no
5 intention of hostility against America. But America is
6 our enemy always.

7 MR. CLARK: Well I have difficulty reconciling those
8 statements. America is our enemy always. You spoke two or three
9 years ago with some admiration of President Carter. You said he
10 was a good man, a decent man. Do you still feel that way?

11 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes, I still feel this, as a person, I
12 speak about Carter as a person, not as a President of the U.S.A.

13 MR. CLARK: But you like the American people. You send
14 thousands of Libyan students to study in the United States.
15 Who is it in America who is your enemy?

16 COLONEL QADDAFI: Yes, we have no problem with masses,
17 with American people. But the problem with the policy of the
18 U.S.A., the whole policy, the stance, the official attitude
19 of your country. Not Carter as a person. Not Americans, the
20 people. But the policy which -- is always under the influence
21 of Zionism.

22 MR. LEE: Colonel Qaddafi, many people see you as a
23 complicated person. You like the U.S. for some reasons. You
24 like the Soviets for some reasons. Do you want to be friendly
25 with everyone, and enemies at the same time? And what do you

1 want for Libya's future?

2 COLONEL QADDAFI: First of all, it is propaganda against
3 me to defame me, and that Zionism -- a great role in this
4 propaganda. But anyhow, I want to be friend for all. But it
5 is possible some are enemies. I can't ignore it please. I want
6 to be friend to U.S.A. But America trying always to be our
7 enemy, faces us in every field. They try to put us under it's
8 domination as it did with others. We want to be free. Want to
9 be nonaligned. We don't want to be under the influence or
10 domination of any power in the world, superpowers or others.

11 But American doesn't want this. Needs relations
12 with others between the master and the slaves, between big
13 powers, small countries. These small countries must be under
14 the domination of the big power, and so on. I don't -- It
15 isn't possibilities -- possible to keep good relations with
16 such power like your, your U.S.A.

17 MR. CLARK: Thank you, Colonel Qaddafi, for being with
18 us on ISSUES AND ANSWERS.

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